Numb. 45.

The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *May* 31, to Thursday *June* 7, 1711.

Magna vis eſt, magnum nomen, unum & idem Sentientis Senatus.

WHoever calls to mind the Clamour and the Calumny, the artificial Fears and Jealouſies, the ſhameful Miſrepreſentation of Perſons and of Things, that were rais'd and ſpread by the Leaders and Inſtruments of a *certain Party*, upon the Change of the laſt Miniſtry, and Diſſolution of Parliament; if he be a true Lover of his Country, muſt feel a mighty Pleaſure, though mix'd with ſome Indignation, to ſee the Wiſhes, the Conjectures, the Endeavours of an inveterate Faction intirely diſappointed; and this important Period wholly ſpent, in reſtoring the Prerogative to the Prince, Liberty to the Subject, in reforming paſt Abuſes, preventing Future, ſupplying old Deficiencies, providing for Debts, reſtoring the Clergy to their Rights, and taking Care of the Neceſſities of the Church: And all this unattended with any of thoſe Misfortunes which ſome Men *hoped* for, while they pretended to *fear*.

For my own part, I muſt confeſs, the Difficulties appear'd ſo great to me, from ſuch a noiſe and ſhew of Oppoſition, that I thought nothing but the abſolute Neceſſity of Affairs, could ever juſtify ſo daring an Attempt. But, a wiſe and good Prince, at the Head of an able Miniſtry, and of a Senate freely choſen; all united to purſue the true Intereſt of their Country, is a Power, againſt which, the little inferior Politicks of any Faction, will be able to make no long Reſiſtance. To this we may add one additional Strength, which in the Opinion of our Adverſaries, is the greateſt and juſteſt of any; I mean the *Vox Populi*, ſo indiſputably declarative on the ſame Side. I am apt to think, when theſe diſcarded Politicians begin ſeriouſly to conſider all this, they will think it proper to give out, and reſerve their Wiſdom for ſome more convenient Juncture.

It was pleaſant enough to obſerve, that thoſe who were the chief Inſtruments of raiſing the Noiſe, who ſtarted Fears, beſpoke Dangers, and form'd ominous Prognoſticks, in order to ſcare the *Allies*, to ſpirit the *French*, and fright ignorant People at Home; made uſe of thoſe very Opinions themſelves had broach'd, for Arguments to prove, that the Change of Miniſters was dangerous and unſeaſonable. But if a Houſe be *Swept*, the more Occaſion there is for ſuch a Work, the more *Duſt* it will raiſe; if it be going to *Ruin*, the *Repairs*, however neceſſary, will *make a Noiſe*, and *diſturb the Neighbourhood* a while. And as to the Rejoicings made in *France*, if it be true, that they had any, upon the News of thoſe Alterations among us; their Joy was grounded upon the *ſame Hopes* with that of the *Whigs*, who comforted themſelves, that a Change of Miniſtry and Parliament, would infallibly put us all into Confuſion, increaſe our Diviſions, and deſtroy our Credit; wherein, I ſuppoſe, by this time they are *equally* undeceiv'd.

But this long Seſſion, being in a manner ended, which ſeveral Circumſtances, and one *Accident*, altogether unforſeen, have drawn out beyond the uſual Time; it may be ſome ſmall piece of Juſtice to ſo excellent an Aſſembly, barely to mention a few of thoſe great Things they have done for the Service of their QUEEN and Country; which I ſhall take notice of, juſt as they come to my Memory.

The Credit of the Nation began mightily to ſuffer by a Diſcount upon *Exchequer Bills*, which have been generally reckon'd the ſureſt and moſt ſacred of all Securities. The preſent Lord Treaſurer, then a Member of the Houſe of Commons, propos'd a Method, which was immediately comply'd with, of raiſing them to a *Par* with *Specie*; and ſo they have ever ſince continu'd.

The *Britiſh* Colonies of *Nevis* and St. *Chriſtophers*, had been miſerably Plunder'd by the *French*, their Houſes burnt, their Plantations deſtroy'd, and many of the Inhabitants carried away Priſoners: They had often, for ſome Years paſt, apply'd in vain for Relief from hence; 'till the preſent Parliament, conſidering their Condition as a Caſe of Juſtice and Mercy, voted them One Hundred Thouſand Pound by way of Recompence, in ſome Manner, for their Sufferings.

Some Perſons, whom the Voice of the Nation authoriſes me to call her *Enemies*, taking Advantage of the general Naturalization Act, had invited over a great Number of Foreigners of all Religions, under the Name of *Palatines*; who underſtood no Trade or Handicraft, yet rather choſe to Beg than Labour; who beſides infeſting our Streets, bred Contagious Diſeaſes, by which we loſt in *Natives*, thrice the Number of what we gain'd in *Foreigners*. The Houſe of Commons, as a Remedy againſt this Evil, brought in a Bill for repealing that Act of general Naturalization, which, to the Surprize of moſt People, was rejected by the L—ds. And upon this Occaſion, I muſt allow my ſelf to have been juſtly rebuk'd by one of my Weekly Monitors, for pretending in a former Paper, to hope that Law would be repeal'd; wherein the Commons being diſappointed, took care however to ſend many of the *Palatines* away, and to repreſent their being invited over, as a pernicious Council.

The *Qualification*-Bill, incapacitating all Men to ſerve in Parliament, who have not ſome Eſtate in Land, either in Poſſeſſion or certain Reverſion, is perhaps the greateſt Security that ever was contriv'd for preſerving the Conſtitution, which otherwiſe might, in a little time, lye wholly at the Mercy of the *Mony'd* Intereſt: And ſince much the greateſt part of the Taxes is paid, either immediately from Land, or from the Productions of it; 'tis but common Juſtice, that thoſe who are the Proprietors, ſhould appoint what Portion of it ought to go to the Support of the Publick; otherwiſe, the engroſſers of Money, would be apt to lay heavy Loads on others, which themſelves never touch with one of their Fingers.

The Publick Debts were ſo prodigiouſly encreas'd, by the Negligence and Corruption of thoſe who had been Managers of the Revenue; that the late M——rs, like careleſs Men, who run out their Fortunes, were ſo far from any Thoughts of Payment, as they had not the Courage to ſtate or compute them. The Parliament found that Thirty Five Millions had never been accounted for; and that the Debt on the Navy, wholly unprovided for, amounted to Nine Millions. The late Chancellor of the *Exchequer*, ſuitable to his tranſcendent Genius for Publick Affairs, propos'd a Fund to be Security for that immenſe Debt, which is now confirm'd by a Law, and is likely to prove the greateſt Reſtoration and Eſtabliſhment of the Kingdom's Credit. Nor content with this, the Legiſlature hath appointed Commiſſioners of Accompts, to inſpect into paſt Miſmanagements of the publick Mony, and prevent them for the future.

I have, in a former Paper, mention'd the Act for building Fifty new Churches in *London* and *Weſtminſter*, with a Fund appropriated for that pious and noble Work. But while I am mentioning Acts of Piety, it would be unjuſt to conceal my Lord High Treaſurer's Concern for Religion, which have extended even to another Kingdom: His Lordſhip having ſome Months ago, obtain'd of Her Majeſty a Remiſſion of the Firſt Fruits and Tenths to the Clergy of *Ireland*, as he is formerly known to have done for that Reverend Body in this Kingdom.

The Act for carrying on a Trade to the South-Sea, propos'd by the ſame great Perſon, whoſe Thoughts are perpetually employ'd, and always with Succeſs, on the

good

good of his Country, will, in all probability, if duly executed, be of mighty Advantage to the Kingdom, and an everlasting Honour to the present Parliament.

I might go on further, and mention that seasonable Law against excessive Gaming; the putting a stop to that scandalous Fraud of false Musters in the Guards; the diligent and effectual Enquiry made by the Commons into several gross Abuses. I might produce many Instances of their impartial Justice in deciding controverted Election, against *former Example*, and great Provocations to retaliate. I might shew their chearful Readiness in granting such vast Supplies; their great Unanimity, not to be broken by all the Arts of a malicious and cunning Faction; their unfeigned Duty to the QUEEN; and lastly, that Representation made to Her Majesty from the House of Commons, discovering such a Spirit and Disposition in that noble Assembly, to redress all those Evils, which a long Male-Administration had brought upon us.

'Tis probable, that trusting only to my Memory, I may have omitted many Things of great Importance; neither do I pretend further in the compass of this Paper, than to give the World some general, however imperfect Idea, how worthily this great Assembly hath discharg'd the Trust of those who so freely chose them; and what we may reasonably hope and expect from the Piety, Courage, Wisdom, and Loyalty of such excellent Patriots, in a Time so fruitful of Occasions to exert the greatest Abilities.

And now I conceive the main Design I had in writing these Papers, is fully executed. A great Majority of the Nation is at length thorowly convinc'd, that the Qu—— proceeded with the highest Wisdom, in changing Her Ministry and Parliament. That under a former Administration, the greatest Abuses of all kinds were committed, and the most dangerous Attempts against the Constitution for some time intended. The whole Kingdom finds the present Persons in Power, directly and openly pursuing the true Service of their QUEEN and Country; and to be such whom their most bitter Enemies cannot tax with Bribery, Covetousness, Ambition, Pride, Insolence, or any pernicious Principles in Religion or Government.

For my own Particular, those little barking Pens which have so constantly pursu'd me, I take to be of no further Consequence to what I have writ, than the scoffing Slaves of old, placed behind the Chariot, to put the General in mind of his Mortality; which was but a Thing of Form, and made no Stop or Disturbance in the Shew. However, if those perpetual Snarlers against me, had the same Design, I must own they have effectually compass'd it; since nothing can well be more mortifying, than to reflect that I am of the same Species with Creatures capable of uttering so much Scurrility, Dulness, Falshood and Impertinence, to the Scandal and Disgrace of Human Nature.

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